

# REBECCA COHN

# eNEWSLETTER

for the twenty-fourth Assembly District

Volume II, Issue 5

August 2005

## Cohn's Comment



Across the nation, 10,000 schools are classified as "needing improvement" under the No Child Left Behind Act. Despite these requirements, states can, as many do, implement their own public school reform measures.

According to "Education Week", California has some of the highest academic standards for students but ranks only 44<sup>th</sup> in the country in spending. How can students live up to rising expectations when we don't adequately fund education?

We all know that a California child's education propels this state's future. Investing in education now will ensure that California remains the world's economic beacon. If we continue to choose other less important investments, thereby starving education, we risk doing serious damage to the "California Dream."

Education is one of my top priorities as a State Assemblymember. That's why I fought long and hard for education funding in the California state budget. Schools received almost \$600 million more in flexible funding in this year's budget.

(Continued on page 2)

## Governor Signs Sex Offender Bill Into Law

SACRAMENTO – AB 102, authored by Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn, was signed into law on July 19<sup>th</sup>. This new law ensures that high-risk sex offenders are closely monitored.

"Closely monitoring these sex offenders will help prevent them from committing another crime. These sex offenders are classified as high-risk for a reason. Increasing their supervision while on parole will help protect the public

from heinous crimes," explained Assemblymember Cohn.

The bill affects sex offenders classified as high-risk. Such offenders have a history of sexual crimes and are believed to be a significant danger to the public.

Assemblymember Cohn stated, "Keeping a closer watch on offenders who are proven to be sexual predators will create safer communities for everyone." ♦

## Stroll through the World of Books at Storywalk

SAN JOSE — Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn invites you to join her for *Storywalk*, a fun, free, family event. *Storywalk* will take place Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Kirk Community Center on 1601 Foxworthy Avenue in San Jose.

Storytellers will be on hand to read from their favorite books hourly on the half hour. The event will also feature arts and crafts, face painting and a book swap. Bring a new or gently used children's book to exchange and leave with one that is new to you. For more information contact Sara Aicardi at (408) 282-8920 or e-mail [Sara.Aicardi@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Sara.Aicardi@asm.ca.gov). ♦



## Community Non-Profit Names New President

SAN JOSE — Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) has announced the appointment of Michele Lew as President and

Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Lew comes to AACI from the office of State Senator Joseph Simitian, where she served as District Director.

"We are very pleased to have found such a devoted, passionate community advocate to join our organization," said Dr. Chui Tsang, AACI Board President and President of San Jose City College. "We are confident that her



AACI Board Members with Lew (third from right).

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

But more funding is not enough! We have to reinvent the public education model and base it on empowerment, accountability, and streamlining. We need to grant principals and communities more decision-making authority, while holding all participants accountable for student achievement. We need to base statewide funding on student need instead of simple percentage formulas. Further, we need to ensure that funding follows students to whatever schools they attend, making the successful model of our neighbors in San Francisco a statewide reality.

California's children and schools must come first. Now is the time for bold and innovative action to guarantee a prosperous future for all Californians. Let me know how you feel about education by contacting me at [Assemblymember.Cohn@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Cohn@assembly.ca.gov). ♦

## AACI Picks New President

(Continued from page 1)

leadership will further AACI's mission to enhance the quality of life in our community."

ACCI is located in the heart of the 24<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and is a valuable resource to many constituents. It is the largest nonprofit advocacy, education, health and human service organization committed to the welfare of Asian Pacific Americans in Santa Clara County.

"AACI represents the best of communities taking care of themselves," said Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn. "I have worked with AACI in the past and can testify to their commitment and good work. I know Michele well and look forward to working with her in her new role."

AACI offers services in numerous languages in their primary care health clinic, as well as behavioral health counseling, domestic violence prevention and shelter, HIV/AIDS prevention and senior health education programs. Over 55,000 clients are served every year.

For more information, please visit [www.aaci.org](http://www.aaci.org) or call (408) 975-2730. ♦

## Find Local Arts Events Online

SANTA CLARA – We are fortunate here in the Silicon Valley to have a wide variety of choices when it comes to culture and the arts. So, how can we keep up with all that is happening and available in art, music, theater, dance and the other arts that enrich our lives?

In addition to the traditional ways of finding out about events and venues such as daily and weekly newspapers, we have a remarkable on-line resource, Artsopolis.com. **Artsopolis is a project of the Artsopolis Marketing Partnership - a nonprofit program of Arts Council Silicon Valley.**

This colorful and easy-to-use site is the leading online resource for arts and cultural information in the Silicon Valley. You can easily find events in the following areas:

- Theater
- Music
- Dance
- Visual Arts
- Festivals
- Kids and Families
- Film and Video
- Poetry and Literature
- World and Traditional Arts

- Museums
- Special Events
- Free events

It's also easy to find virtually all the different organizations, venues and their websites at Artsopolis. Its database contains the most comprehensive information on Silicon Valley arts and cultural events, as well as additional listings of classes, workshops, jobs, auditions, organizations, schools, venues and individual artists.

Artsopolis has led the way in making comprehensive information about art and cultural events available to members of the community. What started here has so far spread to Phoenix, AZ; Riverside/San Bernardino, CA; Houston, TX and St. Joseph County, IN.

You can explore the world of Artsopolis at [www.artsopolis.com](http://www.artsopolis.com). ♦



## Simple Tips for Preventing Stroke

SAN JOSE – One of Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn's priorities is to highlight important health issues for her constituents. As part of this commitment, she wants to help raise awareness about the seriousness of stroke, including warning signs and prevention.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the Nation, claiming over 700,000 American lives each year, and is a leading cause of severe, long-term disability. On average, a stroke death occurs every 3 minutes in the United States.

Stroke, or "brain attack", may occur with a number of symptoms and warning signs. Learning the risk factors and warning signs of stroke may prevent future disability. Some of these warning signs may include:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding

speech

- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes

Stroke is not a hopeless matter. There are various ways to reduce your risk for stroke. Among them are lowering your blood pressure and cholesterol, becoming physically active and treating any chronic illnesses you might have. Tobacco use, alcohol intake and illegal drug use may increase your risk.

Education and prevention are steps toward leading a healthy stroke-free lifestyle. Speak with your healthcare provider to explore and treat your risk factors for stroke. For more information about stroke, contact the American Stroke Association at (888) 4-STROKE or visit their website at [www.strokeassociation.org](http://www.strokeassociation.org). ♦



## Preventing Skin Cancer

SAN JOSE – Although summertime means picnics, barbecues and beach trips, the summer sun also translates to dangerous rays that put you at a higher risk for skin cancer. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, accounting for nearly 40% of all cancers.

### Who is at risk?

Anyone can get skin cancer, although people with certain characteristics are particularly at risk. Risk factors include:

- Fair to light skin complexion
- Family or personal history of skin cancer
- Chronic exposure to the sun
- History of sunburns early in life
- Atypical or a large number of moles
- Freckles (an indicator of sun sensitivity and sun damage)

Although not all sunburns lead to skin cancer, the accumulation of sunburns over time will lower your skin's immune system and make you more susceptible to skin cancer.

### Preventing skin cancer

The best way to lower the risk of skin cancer is to avoid overexposure to the sun and other sources of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Here are some suggestions that can help prevent skin cancer:

- Seek shade: Especially in the middle of the day, when the sun's rays are the strongest
- Cover up: Wear a shirt and a hat

### Learn More About Skin Cancer

- American Cancer Society  
(800) ACS-2345 / (800) 227-2345  
[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)
- National Cancer Institute  
Cancer Information Center  
(800) 4 CANCER / (800) 422-6237  
[www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)
- Cancer Care  
(800) 813-HOPE / (800) 813-4673  
[www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org)

## Sidewalk Office Hours Come to Farmer's Markets

SAN JOSE — Assemblymember Cohn and the district office staff will hold "Sidewalk Office Hours" at local Farmer's Markets within the district on scheduled weekend days throughout the season. This gives both Assemblymember Cohn and her staff the opportunity to meet with and hear from constituents in the district.

As always, there will be free public service information available for the public to pick up and the opportunity to discuss issues, ask questions and get to know Assemblymember Cohn and her staff better. We look forward to meeting with you. The locations and schedule of appearances at Farmer's Markets are as follows:

### Sidewalk Office Hours Schedule:

**Campbell** – Campbell Avenue at Central and First Streets

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

**Santa Clara** – Jackson Street between Homestead Road and Benton Street

Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Santana Row** – Stevens Creek and Winchester Boulevards

Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

**Willow Glen** – Minnesota and Lincoln Avenues.

Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> ♦

with a brim

- Use sunscreen: Use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher and reapply often, especially after swimming or sweating
- Wear sunglasses: Wrap-around sunglasses that absorb 99%-100% of UV rays help protect your eyes and the skin around your eyes
- Don't use tanning beds or sunlamps: These also give off dangerous UV light and can increase the risk of skin cancer

Remember to protect children. Use the methods above to protect children from too much sun, and as they get older, teach them to protect themselves.

Detecting skin cancer early gives you a better chance of preventing the spread of the cancer. Early detection can often lead to a complete recovery. ♦

## "Stranger Danger" Camp Returns to Your Neighborhood!

SAN JOSE — The next "Stranger Danger" Camp and Children's Safety Resource Faire

will be held on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sartorette Elementary School, which is located at 3850 Woodford Dr. in San Jose, CA 95124.

*This event is free and open to the public. Please contact Julie Lind at (408) 282-8920 or*

*[Julie.Lind@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Julie.Lind@asm.ca.gov) for more details. ♦*



A police officer and Assemblymember Cohn tell children about the dangers of talking to strangers.